

**California Conservation Corps
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CCC CREWS DISPATCHED TO VACAVILLE TO SURVEY FOR GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER

Twenty-five members of the California Conservation Corps have been called out to work for the next several weeks combating the glassy-winged sharpshooter.

At the request of the Solano County Agricultural Commissioner and the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the CCC will survey vegetation in the Vacaville area for signs of the sharpshooter. The insect usually lays its eggs on the underside of leaves; corpsmembers will also look for adult and juvenile (nymphs) sharpshooters. The insects excrete a liquid ("sharpshooter rain"), another indication of its presence.

The glassy-winged sharpshooter feeds and lays eggs on hundreds of plant species and can carry bacteria spreading lethal diseases to crops such as almonds and grapes. The sharpshooter spreads Pierce's disease in grapevines; this disease alone has caused the loss of millions of dollars to wine grape growers in the Temecula (Riverside County) area.

Solano County Agricultural Commissioner Susan Cohen said the county is pleased to have the Conservation Corps' assistance. "The CCC has helped with sharpshooter surveying work in other locations and using them here is the most cost-effective way to do this job," she said.

The California Conservation Corps has previously assisted with sharpshooter efforts, working with agricultural agencies in eleven California counties in 2000. The Corps is a state agency hiring young men and women between the ages of 18 and 23 for a year of natural resource work and emergency response.

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